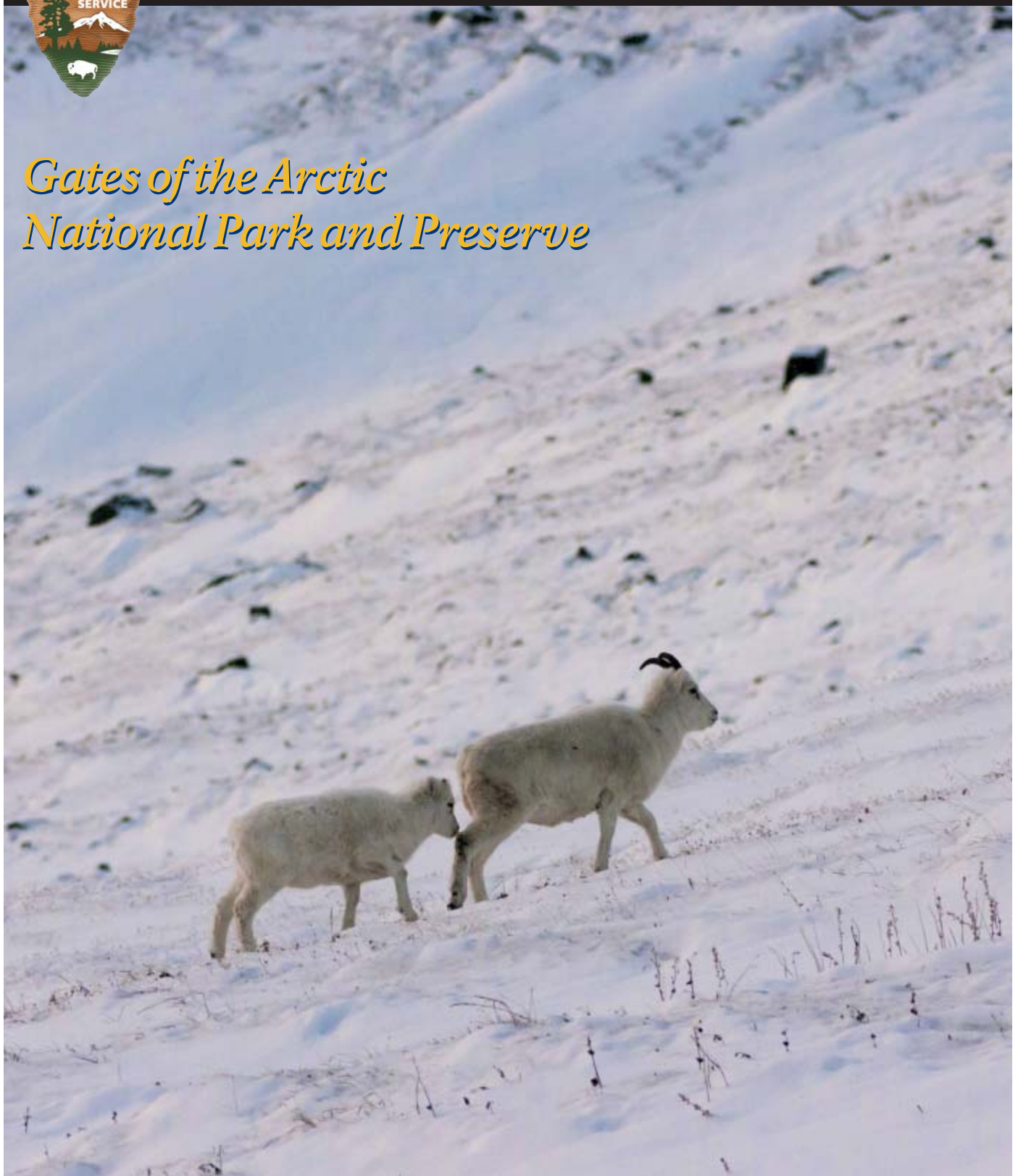




**National Park Service  
Department of the Interior**

*Gates of the Arctic  
National Park and Preserve*



**Annual Report**

**2011**



*“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread,  
places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal  
and give strength to body and soul.”*

*John Muir*

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For more  
information,  
contact us:

Gates of the Arctic  
National Park &  
Pres.  
4175 Geist Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
99709

(907) 457-5752  
[www.nps.gov/gaar](http://www.nps.gov/gaar)



### Staff Contributors

Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent  
Phoebe Gilbert, Archeologist  
Chris Ciancibelli, Archeologist  
Chris Houlette, Curator  
Chris Allan, Historian  
Donna DiFolco, Cartographic Tech.  
Kumi Rattenbury, Ecologist  
Joshua Schmidt, CAKN Data Manager  
Kyle Joly, Wildlife Biologist  
James Savage, Fire Management Officer  
Marcy Okada, Subsistence/Ethnography Coord.  
Pam Rice, Chief of Interpretation  
DaleLynn Gardner, Interpretive Ranger  
Melanie Flamme, Wildlife Biologist  
Arch Thompson, Facilities Manager  
Monica Cross, Chief of Administration



A Dall's sheep ewe and lamb make their way through some of the winter's first snows near Atigun Pass.

### Editing and Layout

Donna DiFolco, Cartographic Technician

### Photos

by the National Park Service,  
unless noted otherwise

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recycled paper.





## *Purpose and Significance*

By establishing Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve in Alaska's Brooks Range, Congress reserved a vast and essentially untouched area of superlative natural beauty and exceptional scientific value – a maze of glaciated valleys and gaunt, rugged mountains covered with boreal forest and arctic tundra, cut by wild rivers and inhabited by far-ranging populations of caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, grizzly and black bears. Congress recognized that a special value of Gates of the Arctic is its wild, undeveloped character and the opportunities it affords for solitude, wilderness travel, and adventure. Gates of the Arctic encompasses several congressionally recognized elements including the national park, national preserve, wilderness, six wild rivers, and two national natural landmarks. The National Park Service is entrusted to manage this area to protect its physical resources and to maintain the intangible qualities of the wilderness and the opportunity it provides for people to learn and renew its values.



### **Purpose of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve**

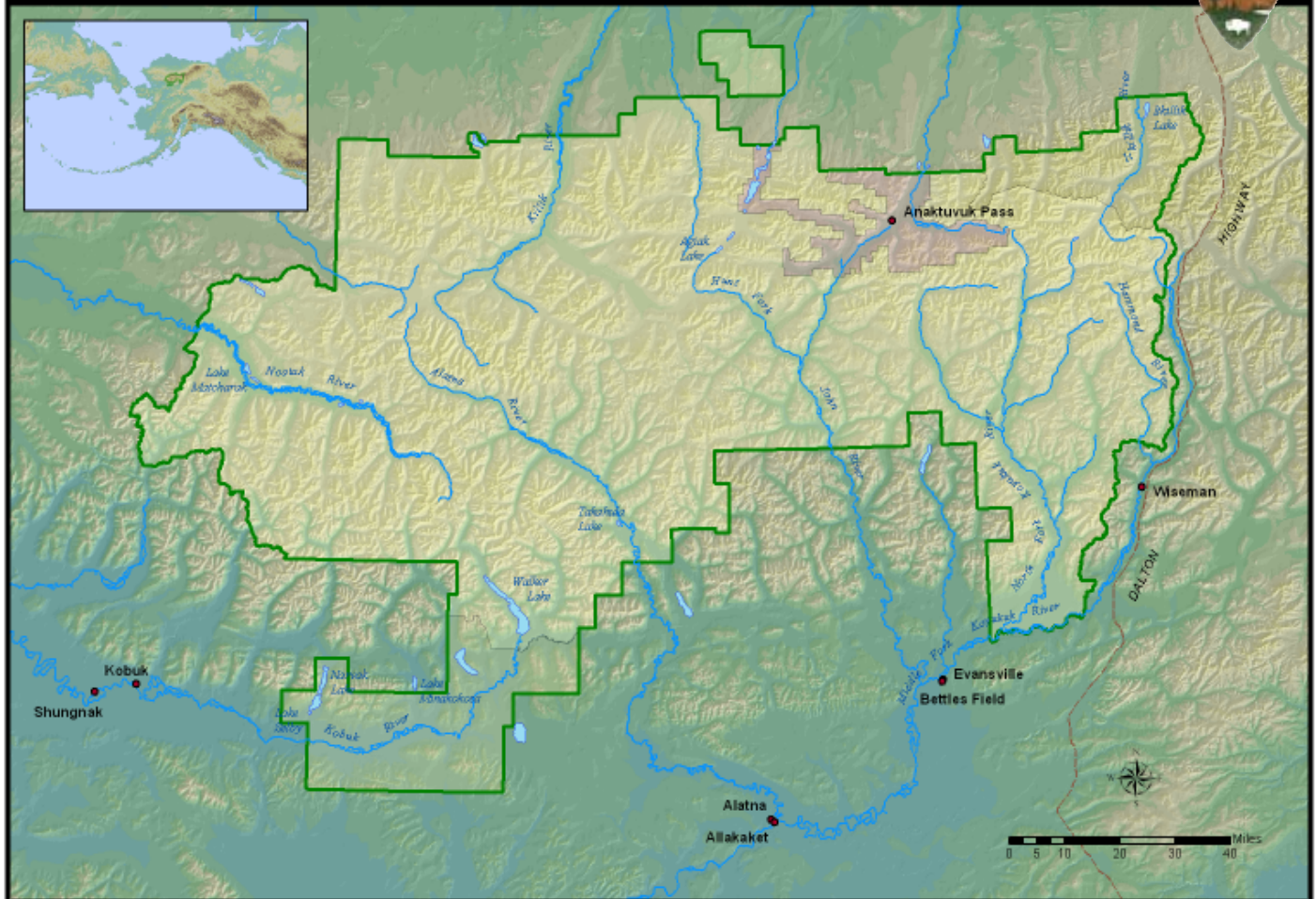
- ❖ Preserve the wild and undeveloped character and natural environmental integrity—including natural processes, habitat, and biodiversity—of the central Brooks Range;
- ❖ Provide opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreational activities and solitude; and
- ❖ Allow rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so.

### **Significance of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve**

- ❖ Gates of the Arctic is the central component of a 40-million-acre contiguous, undeveloped protected area, one of the largest protected areas in an increasingly developed world.
- ❖ Due to its vastness and undeveloped character, Gates of the Arctic provides outstanding recreational wilderness opportunities.
- ❖ Gates of the Arctic protects the core of the traditional homelands of the Nunamiut peoples.
- ❖ The area inspired Bob Marshall, who coined the term “Gates of the Arctic,” and was one of the earliest proponents of arctic preservation and one of the founders of the American wilderness system.
- ❖ Gates of the Arctic exemplifies an intact, high latitude arctic ecosystem with its corresponding natural processes, flora, and fauna.

## Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

National Park Service  
Department of the Interior



Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve lies north of the Arctic Circle in the central Brooks Range of Alaska. Visitors to the park typically access the area via the Dalton Highway and hike in, or they fly in. Commercial air carriers serve Bettles and Anaktuvuk Pass, where the park maintains field offices. Air charter operators based in Bettles fly visitors into the park using float planes that land on many of the larger lakes and rivers.

Visitors to Gates of the Arctic are encouraged to check in at one of the Park's field offices in Bettles or Anaktuvuk Pass, or at the Visitors Center in Coldfoot, prior to their trip. Park Rangers and park volunteers offer orientations which brief visitors in safety issues and Leave-No-Trace camping techniques.



Visitors are encouraged to practice "Leave-No-Trace" techniques while traveling in the Park so that everyone may enjoy the same pleasures of pristine wilderness and joys of discovery.



## Message from the Superintendent

*"The national park idea has been nurtured by each succeeding generation of Americans. Today, across our land, the National Park System represents America at its best. Each park contributes to a deeper understanding of the history of the United States and our way of life; of the natural processes which have given form to our land, and to the enrichment of the environment in which we live."*

George B. Hartzog, Jr.  
National Park Service Director 1964-1972

I have carried Director Hartzog's quote about national parks on a card in my wallet. It has served well as a reminder that as we make day-to-day management decisions at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, it's important to "connect the dots" – in other words, to honor the past, to provide for the present, and to hold fast for the future.

The first "dot"... By establishing a national park in the Brooks Range, the American people reserved for themselves a vast and essentially untouched area in Alaska's arctic mountains with superlative beauty and exceptional scientific value – for all time. The idea of preserving this area as wilderness dates back to the early 1930s. Those who helped create "Gates of the Arctic" envisioned a place where on a grand scale, nature was to be encountered as is, and people could rediscover the excitement inherent in exploration while leaving the land undisturbed for others to follow and repeat the experience. We strive daily to protect and maintain that vision.

As for the second and third "dots," the National Park Service mission includes providing for the use and enjoyment of park resources for people today in a manner that ensures tomorrow's generations the same opportunities. We work closely with local rural residents who share their knowledge of the land and its resources with us in order to help maintain ancient traditions as well as provide for subsistence needs. Recreational visitors – including hunters and trappers, trekkers and climbers, skiers and river runners – are stakeholders too. We depend on insights gleaned from their activities in the Park to make appropriate decisions that afford enjoyment of the Park while at the same time protecting its resources and values in perpetuity.

Thank you for your interest in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. We have a knowledgeable, talented staff whose jobs are to protect, research, monitor, and share what we're learning about your Park with you. I hope that you enjoy reviewing their accomplishments highlighted in this Report. As always, I appreciate hearing your suggestions for promoting safe and responsible enjoyment and preservation of "Gates of the Arctic" as we connect the dots together.

A wolf pauses on the bank of the Noatak River in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Greg Dudgeon  
Superintendent

## Preserve Resources

*Natural and cultural resources and associated values at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are protected, restored and maintained in good condition, and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.*

*Long-term Goal: Archeological Sites. By September 30, 2012, 1045 (66% of 1592) of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve's archeological sites are in good condition.*

**Annual Goal Ia8: By September 30, 2011, 1040 (68% of 1520) of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve's archeological sites are in good condition.**  
**GOAL EXCEEDED**

### Matcharak Lake Research Continues

By Phoebe Gilbert & Chris Ciancibelli

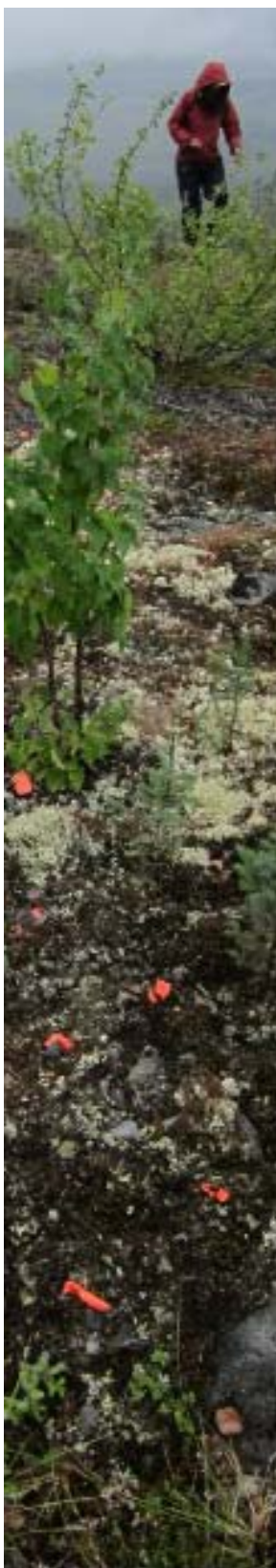
During the 2011 field season, National Park Service archaeologists spent 2 1/2 weeks conducting small-scale testing and evaluation of several previously identified sites along the south-east section of Matcharak Lake, located along the Noatak River. Project personnel consisted of the park archaeologist, 2 term NPS archeologists and 2 seasonal undergraduate students.

As recent investigations have revealed, the archaeological sites around Matcharak Lake are unique in the region, as they contain subsurface artifacts found buried under significant sediment deposits, and occasionally within permafrost, allowing for excellent faunal preservation. Radiocarbon dates obtained from faunal remains indicate that these sites are around 4,200 years old. Although yet undeter-

mined, these sites may be from the Arctic Small Tool tradition (ASTt), in which case they would be some of the oldest such sites found in northern Alaska. Subsurface testing was conducted at 4 of the sites in an attempt to better understand their age, content, and prehistoric cultural affiliation.

Highlights of the field work were the excavation of a 4,000 year-old cultural feature containing a large quantity of animal bones and the discovery of lithic debitage at a 7,500 year-old site, where previously no cultural material had been found. This year's field work provides more evidence of the strong connection going back thousands of years between human subsistence users and the region that is now Gates of the Arctic, and it will help inform future park management decisions.

*Highlights of the field work were the excavation of a 4,000 year-old cultural feature... and the discovery of lithic debitage at a 7,500 year-old site*



## Kobuk River Archaeological Fieldwork

By Phoebe Gilbert & Chris Ciancibelli

This summer marked the final field season of a 3-year archaeological study focusing on the Kobuk River region within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The primary goals of this project have been to identify archaeological sites, assess their condition, and evaluate their significance. This work, in combination with future research and analysis, will provide a better understanding of the region's cultural resources and how to appropriately and effectively manage them.

The 2011 fieldwork focused on the Reed River, a major tributary to the Kobuk River. Archaeologists surveyed over 1,000 acres this summer, recorded 7 new sites, and performed 31 additional site condition assessments, combining for a total of 38 site visits. Many of the sites recorded display microblade tool technology, and are also rich with obsidian artifacts due to the relatively close proximity to the Batza Tena obsidian source along the Koyukuk River. A highlight of the field season was a visit to the Reed River Hot Springs and the encounter with gold rush era artifacts.

At the conclusion of fieldwork for this project, over 33,000 acres have been surveyed, 107 new sites have been identified, and 129 (49%) of the 261 previously recorded sites have been revisited and assessed. The vast majority of sites revisited were found to be in good condition. Work continues on a

comprehensive report on the project.

The section of the Kobuk River basin encompassed by Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, upstream from the modern villages of Kobuk and Shungnak, was an area of marginal use by the Kobuk and Nunamiut Eskimos as well as the Koyukuk Indians during protohistoric and historic times. The high density of archaeological sites found in this area indicates it was a focal point for human subsistence activities as well as a major travel route. The work performed inventorying and monitoring the condition of the cultural resources within the Park and Preserve helps save valuable information about our past and is a crucial part of preserving and protecting our heritage.



At left, flags mark spots where artifacts were located within a lithic scatter during the 2011 Reed River archeological survey. Obsidian microblades (above) were common among the finds in the Reed River basin due to the area's relative proximity to the Batza Tena obsidian source along the Koyukuk River.

## New Accessions, Old Collections, and Expanded Research

By Chris Houlette

The Gates of the Arctic Museum Program continued to expand throughout 2011, with 1,795 items added to the collection. The efforts of the archaeology field crews produced approximately 500 additional objects which are being processed and cataloged. The Kurupa Lake Archaeological collection, comprised of nearly 4,000 individual objects, was returned from the Alaska Regional Curation Center in Anchorage. Almost 500 objects were re-housed and the corresponding database records completely updated. To assist with these tasks, a new museum technician intern was hired. Rachel Lindley is a senior at West Valley High School that participated in the 2010 Alaska Summer Research Academy Archaeology Module in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

With the help of an NPS contract archivist, a survey of the archival materials currently held at the Fairbanks Administrative Center identified a backlog of 53 linear feet of unprocessed documents. These materials include internal reports, field notes and associated photos, and administrative records all of which serve to document the various research activities that have taken place in the park over the years. The survey is the first step in a multi-year effort to completely overhaul the Gates of the Arctic archival collection.

Finally, there are several on-going research projects utilizing park archaeo-

logical collections. Park archaeologists Chris Ciancibelli and Phoebe Gilbert analyzed the Nutuvukti Biface Cache collection which was collected during site testing in the Upper Kobuk region in 2010. They presented their results at the Alaskan Anthropology Association annual meetings in Anchorage. Jesse Clark, a graduate student in the anthropology department of Washington State University, conducted an analysis of faunal remains from the Hungry Fox site, originally collected by park archaeologists in 2005. He also presented his results at the Alaskan Anthropology Association annual meetings.

Andy Tremayne, a PhD graduate student at UC Davis and past GAAR archaeologist, has continued his analyses of the Denbigh Flint Complex Paleoeskimo materials from Matcharak Lake. Two peer-reviewed articles have come out of his work, one in the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* and a second in *Arctic Anthropology*. The Matcharak Lake collections were also highlighted in a new virtual exhibit hosted on the Gates of the Arctic webpage. Also, two graduate students from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fawn Carter and Amy Ely, conducted ancient DNA analyses from faunal remains collected from the site. Their results were also presented at the Alaskan Anthropology Association annual meetings.



A unique biface—possibly a drill—is one of the many items from the recently returned Kurupa Lake archaeological collection. This piece is approximately 3.5 cm wide.



"Lining" a river boat up Helpmejack Creek, a tributary of the Alatna River, October 11, 1898. This photo is one of nearly 400 photographs in the Jasper N. Wyman collection.

*The collection includes images of travel up remote rivers and through a frozen world, of drift mining in mid-winter, and of winter diversions like frontier orchestras, boxing, and card-playing.*

## Jasper Wyman Photographs Capture Koyukuk-Alatna Gold Rush

By Chris Allan

In 1898, thousands of Americans joined the Klondike Gold Rush, streaming northward in the hopes of becoming rich overnight. Many soon learned that all of the rich placer claims near Dawson City were taken, and changed their course to explore Alaskan river systems instead. In 2011, Historian Chris Allan discovered a collection of nearly 400 photographs documenting one such diverted gold stampede, in this case to the Koyukuk and Alatna Rivers. The photographs were taken by Jasper N. Wyman, a member of a group from Illinois who called themselves the Galesburg-Alaska Mining and Developing Company.

After leaving home in April 1898, Wyman and his 24 partners sailed from Seattle to the mouth of the Yukon River, built a sternwheeler riverboat they christened the *Illinois*, and continued another 450 miles to the Koyukuk River, and from there to the Alatna. For one

long, cold winter the men dug into permafrost in an effort to reach a golden paystreak, and established two mining camps – Rapid City and Beaver City – just south of the boundary of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The collection includes images of travel up remote rivers and through a frozen world, of drift mining in mid-winter, and of winter diversions like frontier orchestras, boxing, and card-playing. Together they provide a rare glimpse into the daily lives of men (and a few women) who raced north for gold and adventure.

The photographs, which are housed at the Anchorage Museum and in the UAF Archives, were taken using the dry gelatin process on glass plates. It is remarkable that these plates still survive and that we can enjoy today such a detailed portrait of a remarkable moment in Alaska's past.

*The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.*

*Long-term Goal 1a2B: Species of Management Concern. By September 30, 2012, 5 populations (56% of 9) of Gates of the Arctic's species of management concern have improved information for management. Desired condition not currently known, but under development.*

**Annual Goal: By September 30, 2011, 5 populations (56% of 9) of Gates of the Arctic's species of management concern are managed to desired condition.**

**GOAL ACHIEVED**

## **Hares Remain Scarce, Information Grows**

By Donna DiFolco

Following a shallow rise in the population, the 15<sup>th</sup> annual snowshoe hare track count conducted in Gates of the Arctic west of Wiseman again recorded zero hare tracks in March 2011. Pellet counts the following June also indicated very low densities of hares in this area. Four of the other five study sites in the snowshoe study area all indicated relatively steady or decreasing snowshoe hare densities.

While we continue to wait for hare populations up north to increase, the project is progressing on other fronts. UAF graduate student Suzanne Worker was able to fine tune a method to conduct feeding trials on snowshoe hares using soil collected from Jennie Creek bluff. She confirmed that hares do indeed consume the soil and that this affects the amount of browse they consume and, correspondingly, their weight. Hares that consumed the Jennie Creek soil also consumed more vegetation (willows) and maintained higher body weights than hares that did not eat the soil. These observations support our hypothesis that geophagy by hares in the Jennie Creek area helps prolong

population highs beyond what would “normally” occur.

We were finally able to process two lynx carcasses that had been donated by Wiseman trappers nearly three years ago. Dr. Scott Flamme, of Mt. McKinley Animal Hospital, volunteered his time and expertise to necropsy the lynx, and Fish and Wildlife Service toxicologist Angela Matz collected tissue samples for heavy metals analysis. One lynx had been caught in the “minimal” area of our study area, and although we had seen a few tracks in the area that year, it still had very low densities of hares. This lynx was severely emaciated, having virtually no fat on its body. The second lynx, which had been caught farther south where hares were more abundant, had been in good condition with plenty of fat.



A captive snowshoe hare at UAF's facilities nibbles on a cake of Jennie Creek bluff soil. Hares who ate soil also ate more willows and maintained higher body weights than hares that did not eat the soil.

## Dall's Sheep Monitoring Part of Multi-Park Endeavor

By Kumi Rattenbury and Joshua Schmidt

In July 2011, staff from the Arctic and Central Alaska Networks worked with park staff to survey Dall's sheep in the Itkillik Preserve in northeastern Gates

8,081-12,520) in 2010. Abundance within the Itkillik Preserve was estimated at 1,898 (1,421-2,578) and 1,854 (1,342-2,488) in 2009 and 2010, respec-



A Dall's sheep ewe and lamb make their way through some of the winter's first snows near Atigun Pass.

*Distance sampling surveys are feasible logistically, cost 70-80% less than the traditionally used minimum count surveys, and produce precise estimates of sheep abundance.*

of the Arctic as well as available sheep habitat in Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Denali National Park and Preserve, and southern Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The surveyors used distance sampling methods during the aerial survey and will use hierarchical modeling in data analysis to estimate the abundance and sex and age composition of sheep populations in these park units. Distance sampling surveys are feasible logistically, cost 70-80% less than the traditionally used minimum count surveys, and produce precise estimates of sheep abundance. The 2011 estimates and long-term monitoring protocols will be available by the end of calendar year 2011.

We estimated that 8,412 sheep (or between 6,517 and 11,090 sheep, a 95% confidence interval) were in Gates of the Arctic in 2009, and 10,072 sheep (or

tively.

These methods, which are new for sampling Dall's sheep populations, and the results from the 2009 and 2010 surveys conducted in Gates of the Arctic as a means to test these methods, were presented at the George Wright Society meeting in New Orleans in March and at The Wildlife Society conference in Hawaii in November. We also submitted a manuscript that will be published in an upcoming edition of the *Journal of Wildlife Management* regarding the development of the survey and hierarchical modeling methods. . The Arctic Network also funding filming of the 2011 Itkillik Preserve survey and interviews with network biologists and the survey pilot for production of a video podcast that will be available on the Gates of the Arctic and Arctic Network websites and on YouTube.

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## Koyukuk Moose Project Continues to Gather Information

By Kyle Joly

A cooperative project involving NPS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game continues to learn more about the distribution, movements, habitat usage, survival and twinning rates of moose in the Koyukuk River Valley. About 70 radio collars are currently deployed on both bull and cow moose from the southern end of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge in the south to Sukakpak Mountain in the north. The moose are located monthly by aircraft, while about 25 moose have GPS collars that record their position every 8 hours. This year, we initiated a new phase to the study to include GPS collar deployment on bull moose and on cows in Kanuti NWR for the first time.



About 70 radio collars are currently deployed on both bull and cow moose from Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge to Sukakpak Mountain to learn more about the distribution, movements, habitat usage, survival and twinning rates of moose in the Koyukuk River Valley.

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## Tracking Western Arctic Caribou

By Kyle Joly

Another 14 GPS-satellite radio collars were deployed on Western Arctic Herd (WAH) caribou this year. The collars provide biologists with locations of these caribou every 8 hours, 365 days a year – over 95,000 locations so far. These data will be used to track the migrations and distribution of caribou throughout the year. The results of winter range studies, survivorship modeling studies and advancements in GPS data management were presented at numerous meetings during 2011. The NPS was instrumental in launching the WAH Working Group's webpage: [www.westernarcticcaribou.org](http://www.westernarcticcaribou.org).



GPS-satellite radio collars provide biologists with locations of Western Arctic Herd caribou every 8 hours, 365 days a year.

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## 2011 a Low Fire Season in Gates of the Arctic

By James Savage

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve experienced a below normal fire year with a total of two fires.

The Hogatza Fire started May 26<sup>th</sup> and grew to just ten acres. The Florence Creek Fire, which started on July 9<sup>th</sup>, spread to 174 acres. Both fires were natural starts caused by lightning; no suppression actions were taken. They were monitored by NPS's Alaska Eastern Area Fire Management and BLM's Alaska Fire Service. Both fires were extinguished by rain.

Alaska Eastern Area Fire Management visited five cabin sites with the plan of implementing a hazardous fuels reduction project around the structures in 2012.

The Florence Creek Fire, one of only two fires in Gates of the Arctic during 2011, charred 174 acres of taiga.



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## Subsistence & Ethnography Program Continues Moving Forward

By Marcy Okada

### *Farewell and Good Luck to David Krupa*

In May 2011, we saw the departure of David Krupa, the Subsistence and Ethnography Program Coordinator for both Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. Dave worked for these two park/preserves from 2002 to 2011. Prior to that, he briefly worked for Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve. Dave was instrumental in

spearheading the Ethnography Program through partnerships with University of Alaska Fairbanks Oral History Program, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, as well as other organizations. His anthropological background and ethnographical expertise will be sorely missed.



Dave Krupa was instrumental in building the ethnography program at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

## *Digital Repatriation and Portal Project Continues*

The long-term project to develop a web-based portal to make archival records, photographs, books and manuscripts relating to resident-zone communities more accessible to these communities and the public continued in 2011. This year, the project focused on the Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk community portals. Presentations that included historic photos, films and oral histories were given in Shungnak and Kobuk to promote the project and to establish local contacts. Community members expressed enthusiasm for the project. Later, Shungnak elders and residents traveled to Fairbanks to survey

the UAF collections, and determined which materials were of highest interest and importance to their communities.

The materials will then be digitized and made available to the public based on the priorities recommended by community members during their visit.



Photo by Marge Thompson, Rasmuson Library, UAF

Elders from Shungnak sort through historic records at the Rasmuson Library in Fairbanks.

## *SRC Meetings Discuss Issues Facing Park Communities*

The Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) held two meetings this year. The Spring meeting was held May 11 & 12 in the village of Shungnak. Park staff updated the SRC and community members on natural and cultural resource division activities. Discussion topics included Dalton Highway Corridor guide permits, the customary and traditional use determination process, and Federal Wildlife proposals. The community welcomed SRC members and park staff with a potlatch.

The Fall meeting was held in Fairbanks November 9 & 10. NPS staff members presented program reports to SRC members and answered questions.

There were also presentations given by representatives of NPS and other federal and state agencies concerning Government to Government Consultation, the Dalton Highway Corridor and the Issuance of Guiding Permits, the Foothills West Transportation Access Project and the Ambler Mining District Access Project.



Photo by Tim Fickus

SRC members met with Park staff in Shungnak in May.

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## *Provide for Public Enjoyment and Visitor Experience*

*Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.*

*Long-term Goal: Visitor Satisfaction. By September 30, 2012, 96% of visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.*

**Annual Goal IIa1A: By September 30, 2011, 96% of visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.**

**GOAL EXCEEDED**

### **Arctic Interagency Visitor Center**

by Heidi Schoppenhorst and Pam Rice

The Dalton Highway continues to offer superb scenery and great expanses of wilderness that people from around the world can enjoy and experience. The Arctic Interagency Visitor Center (AIVC) at Coldfoot offers up-to-date information, backcountry trip planning assistance, bear barrel check-out, interpretive programs and exhibits, and the nicest restrooms along the highway.

In 2012, the AIVC opened May 27 and remained open every day through September 11. The Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service serve as an excellent model of interagency cooperation staffing and maintaining the AIVC. Together, the three agencies provided three permanent staff, three seasonals, three SCA interns, and four volunteers to staff the visitor center throughout the season and provide roving interpretation at other sites along the Dalton Highway, such as the Arctic Circle and Galbraith Lake.

AIVC staff and special guest speakers Gil Mull, Neil Brown, Dominique Collet and Marion Snively offered a variety of interpretive programs each evening for 2,276 visitors, an increase of

over 4% from 2010.

The number of visitors entering the AIVC increased by 16% over 2010 for a total of 9,634 visitors. For the first time since the recession, visitation returned to pre-recession rates and came within 23 people of reaching our peak visitation in 2008.

While overall visitation increased, the number of people stopping at the AIVC who planned to enter the backcountry (primarily Gates of the Arctic and Arctic Refuge) from Coldfoot or the Dalton Highway declined 14.7% to 233 visitors (177 for Gates of the Arctic, 56 for Arctic Refuge). Most likely, the decrease was due to poor weather conditions, higher than normal levels of mosquitoes, and possibly poor documentation early in the season. Day hikes in the Dalton corridor, however, increased to 106 people (136%).

Finally, the new audio-visual equipment originally planned for the AIVC theater, including surround sound and big screen projection, was purchased and installed late in the season. Future films and presentations will greatly benefit from this improvement.



#### **Gates of the Arctic Joins Facebook**

Check us out on Facebook! "Like" us and receive pictures of the week and other regular updates. Learn about the latest research findings, planned activities, and other happenings in the park.



*Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.*

*Long-term goal: Visitor Understanding. By September 30, 2012, 92% of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve visitors understand the significance of the park.*

**Annual Goal IIb1: By September 30, 2011, 92% of visitors to Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve understand the significance of the park.**

## **Gates of the Arctic 2011 Artist in Residence Program**

By DaleLynn Gardner

The Artist in Residence (AIR) program offers professional writers, composers, musicians, two and three-dimensional visual artists, photographers, filmmakers, and artisans the opportunity to pursue their art in the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. In return, the park receives interpretive artwork and an opportunity for outreach, both from the art itself, and the public events at which the artist speaks of their experience in the park.

This year the park had two Artists in Residence: Abigail Brown, a silversmith from London, and Kristin Link, an illustrator who lives in Alaska. They accompanied Ranger Sarah Rice on a trip down the Noatak River, combining the artists' patrol with visitor contacts and inventory and monitoring. Abigail has plans to make a sculpture out of copper with accents of silver and gold for the Visitor Center. She recently published an article about her experience in Gates and is giving talks about

the patrol at exhibits of her work.

Kristin is working on several illustrations for use in interpretive products and the website, and will also be giving talks about her experience in presentations throughout Alaska.

The artists from 2010, Robin Peterson and Jing Zhou have produced two illustrated books, several paintings and a series of panoramic photos, one of which will hang in the Bettles Visitor Center. Next summer, the 2012 Artist in Residence will be composer Stephen Lias. He is working on a four part composition for orchestra, inspired by the National Parks. Gates of the Arctic will be the third park in his series.



2010 Artist in Residence Robin Peterson was inspired to paint "Arctic Evening" (above) during her visit to Gates of the Arctic National Park last year. Co-artist Jing Zhou photographed the panoramic scene of the Noatak River (top).



Top: Education Specialist Tracie Pendergrast talks to kids about mammal skulls. Middle left: owl pellet bone chart. Middle right: younger children get the feel of moose antlers. Bottom: Students examine an American Robin's nest.

## Reaching Out in Anaktuvuk

By Melanie Flamme

In April, Biological Technician Stacia Backensto, Interpretive Park Ranger DaleLynn Gardner, and Wildlife Biologist Melanie Flamme travelled to Anaktuvuk Pass to present programs to the residents of that community. Trained in outreach program development and presentation techniques by volunteer Education Specialist Tracie Pendergrast, we conducted outreach programs for all grade levels at the school, highlighting avian “species of concern.”

This year’s program emphasized bird identification by learning songs for 12 bird species of concern including Smith’s longspur, bluethroat, yellow-billed loon, Harlequin duck, and rusty blackbird. Students also learned about species taxonomy, conservation status, and migration pathways of the 12 species. Stacia developed a new program on ravens tailored for high school and junior high classes. Programs on owls and yellow-billed loons were revamped and presented in the 4-6<sup>th</sup> grades and junior high, respectively. A program on moose and other mammals, and their adaptations to living in the arctic, was presented to the younger classrooms.

In addition to the school programs, Melanie presented seminars to the community on landbird “species of concern” and yellow-billed loons. Ecologist Kumi Rattenbury presented a program on sheep at the Anaktuvuk Pass Community Center.

## Ensure Organizational Effectiveness

*The National Park Service uses current management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.*

### Maintenance Crew Remains Busy with Repairs, Replacements, and Remediation

By Arch Thompson

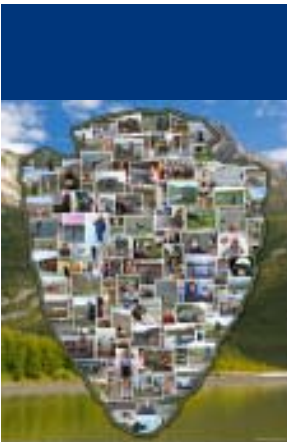
- ✂ Replaced failed housing well.
- ✂ Physically assessed all park assets (with exception of Dahl Creek and the Isiak cabin).
- ✂ Completed cleanup of materials storage yard in Bettles.
- ✂ Replaced copper pipe in housing unit 104 with freeze-resistant plumbing.
- ✂ Had an engineering assessment done of housing unit 105, which has foundation problems, and are developing PMIS project to stabilize the structure.
- ✂ Completed rehabilitation of interiors of C1 and C2 houses at Marion Creek.
- ✂ Replaced one fleet vehicle.
- ✂ Completed over 90% of work orders.
- ✂ Significantly reduced deferred maintenance backlog.
- ✂ Assisted regional engineer to install Dahl Creek camp fuel tank and distribution.
- ✂ Had US Public Health Service conduct a sanitary courtesy inspection of Bettles.
- ✂ Completed two environmental remediation projects in Bettles.
- ✂ FAC participated in borough's *Don't be Fuelish* campaign, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> of all businesses and agencies who participated.



A NovaGold Resources, Inc. employee sets the new aviation fuel tank at the Dahl Creek airstrip.

## Admin report

By Monica Cross



Fairbanks Administrative Center

The Administrative Team provides support for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center, the Inventory and Monitoring programs of the Central Alaska and Arctic Networks, the Eastern Area Fire Management Program, and eight employees from other NPS units whose offices are in the building. The Administrative Team, which consists of the Administrative Officer, two Information Technology specialists, and five administrative assistants (4 in Fairbanks, 1 in Eagle), also receives help from the Arctic Network, Fire Program and Cultural Resources program administrative assistants, plus the interpretive ranger in Bettles. This cooperative approach provides unique and broad training opportunities while still providing the maximum quality support to all programs.

FY2011 was an eventful and challenging year for administration. The Administrative Team successfully navigated through system-wide changes in hiring, procurement, and even payments to vendors, all of which necessitated learning many new programs and processes. At the same time, they met existing deadlines and maintained ongoing opera-

tions occurred at exactly the same time the incumbent human resources assistant transferred, leaving everyone with steep learning curves. Despite all the challenges, the Administrative Team managed to successfully close-out the fiscal year within the allocated dollar limits of the six organizational units they serve. They tracked over 200 account codes, processed 230 purchase requests, prepared and processed almost 400 travel vouchers, and processed over 200 personnel action requests, while also answering the phones, processing mail, greeting visitors and providing great support to internal and external customers.

The Information Technology (IT) program was outstanding once again. 2011 marked the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with no cyber-attacks getting through the IT security defenses. Because of the IT team's proactive planning and purchasing patterns, several hardware failures that could have been catastrophic were simply small annoyances. A telework program was inaugurated with the purchase of a virtual phone license; making telework a seamless and productive option for some employees. The IT specialists have been amazing in their continued efforts to work closely with partner agencies in the shared facilities, and to come up with new and better ways to support employees.

Administrative Team members were engaged and active in many areas outside of administration. They volunteered in support of the Yukon Quest, participated in the Adopt-a-Highway program, managed the CFC effort, participated in snow, small mammal, moose, and sheep surveys, and managed the recycling program. They are not just a crucial and significant part of the Administrative Team, but of the whole National Park Service.



Administrative Technician Ginger Ryan arrived just in time to prepare the office for FY12 operations.

tions. The National Park Service lost the ability to pay bills under the micro purchase limit with Third Party Draft checks and there were major changes to the requirements for submittal of bills to the Accounting Operations Center. New hiring process deadlines and the adjustments to the new HROC require-

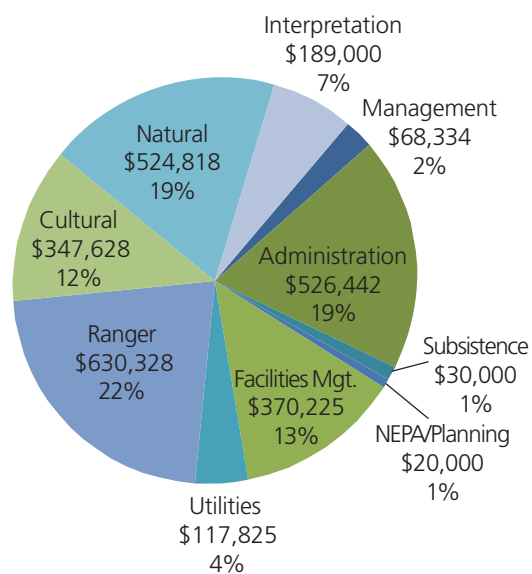
## Financial Summary

### Breakdown of Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS) by Division

- ❖ Research & Studies: \$922,446
- ❖ Facilities Operation & Maintenance: \$488,050
- ❖ Resource Protection & Visitor Services: \$819,328
- ❖ Management & Administration: \$594,776

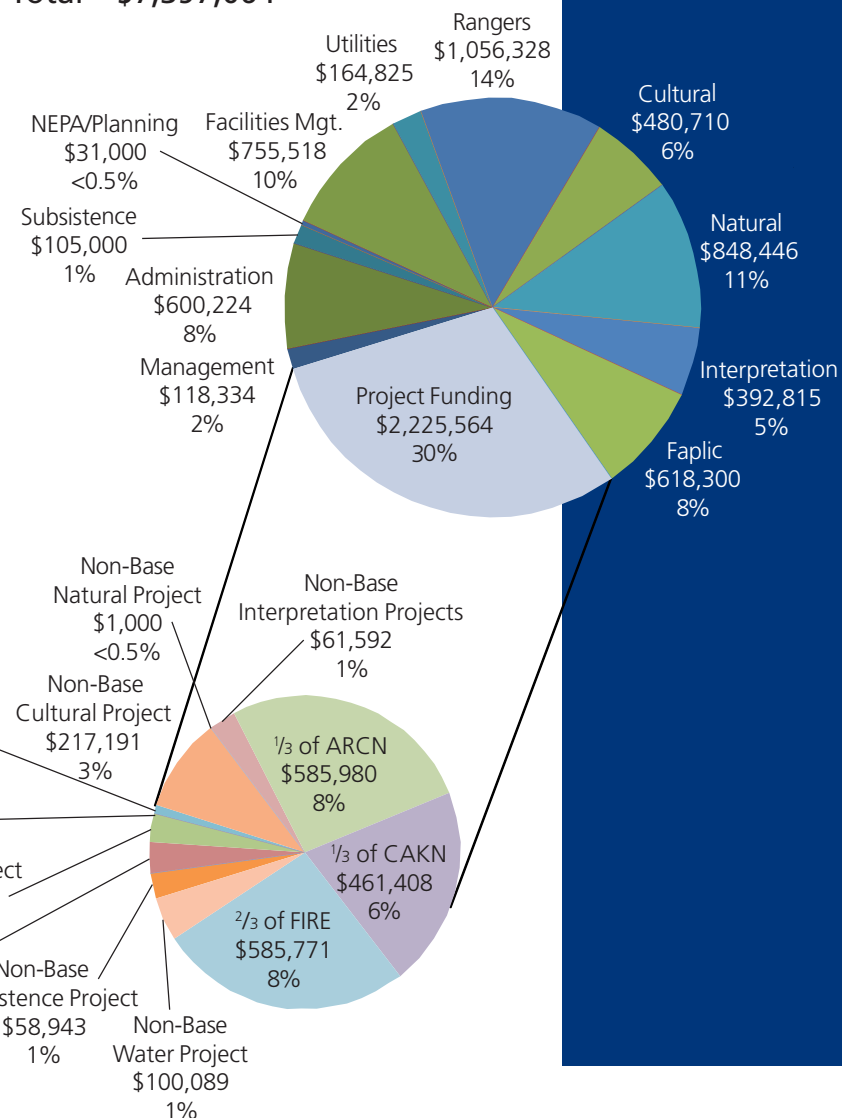
### Gates of the Arctic Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS)

Total = \$2,824,600

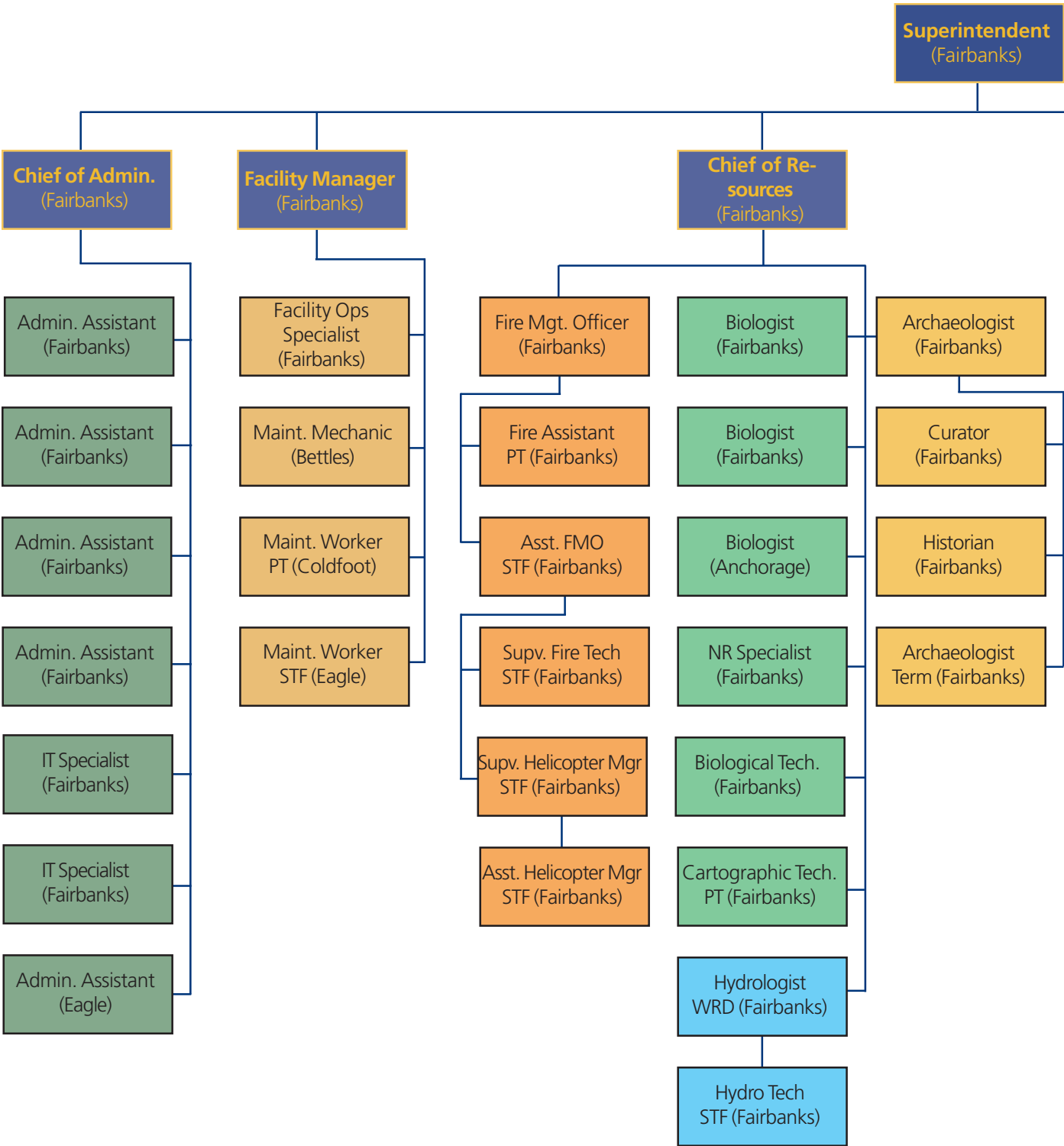


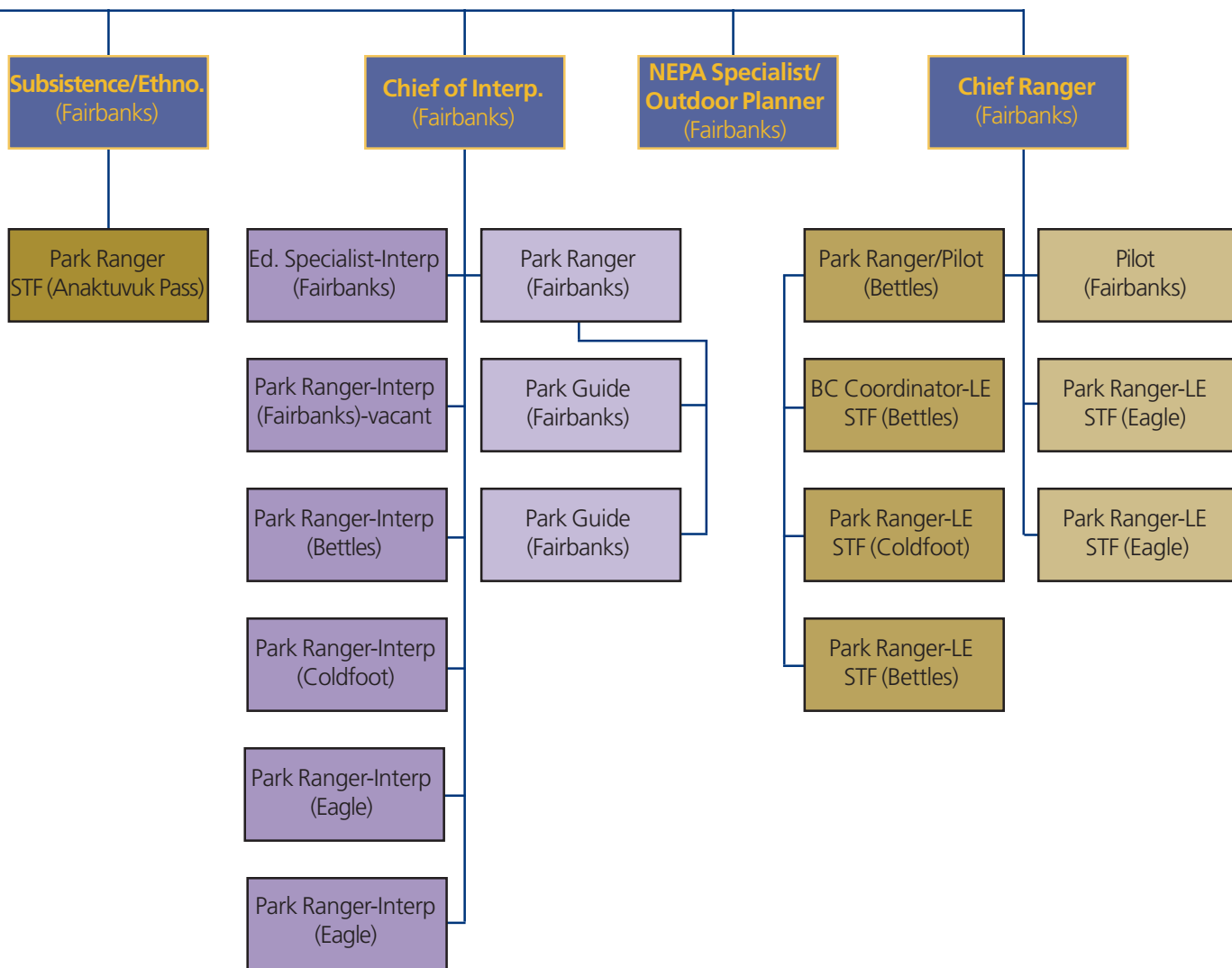
### YUGA All Funding Sources Allocations

Total = \$7,397,064



# Gates of the Arctic, Yukon-Charley Rivers, Alaska Public Lands Information Center Organization







Volunteer Davya Flaharty takes a break following the 15th annual snowshoe hare track count. Rakes were not needed this year to brush out tracks--only one old snowshoe hare track was seen in the area during the survey.

*The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people  
so that all may experience our heritage.*



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*U.S. Department of the Interior \* National Park Service*